

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend claims 28 and 40 as shown in the following listing of claims, which replaces all previous listings and versions of claims.

1.-27. (canceled)

28. (currently amended) A guide device for guiding a therapy catheter in a body duct, comprising: a flexible sleeve dimensioned to be inserted into a body duct; a first elongate, stretchable hollow body disposed inside the sleeve and extending lengthwise in an axial direction along the central part of the sleeve; plural second elongate bodies disposed inside the sleeve around the outer circumference of the first body and extending lengthwise in the axial direction in side-by-side relation with one another along the sleeve, the first and second bodies being movable relative to one another to impart flexibility to the guide device; and means for stretching the first body radially outwardly to radially press the second bodies against the inner wall of the sleeve to impart stiffness to the guide device.

29. (previously presented) A guide device according to claim 28; wherein the means for stretching the first body comprises a pressurized fluid inside the first hollow body.

30. (previously presented) A guide device according to claim 28; wherein the second bodies are comprised of deformable elastic material and undergo elastic deformation when pressed against the inner wall of the sleeve.

31. (previously presented) A guide device according to claim 30; wherein the second bodies become flattened between the inner wall of the sleeve and the outer circumference of the first body when the first body is stretched radially outwardly.

32. (previously presented) A guide device according to claim 31; wherein the second bodies are in side-by-side contact with one another when the first body is not stretched radially outwardly and are pressed sideways against one another when the first body is stretched radially outwardly.

33. (previously presented) A guide device according to claim 32; wherein the means for stretching the first body comprises a pressurized fluid inside the first hollow body.

34. (previously presented) A guide device according to claim 31; wherein the means for stretching the first body comprises a pressurized fluid inside the first hollow body.

35. (previously presented) A guide device according to claim 28; wherein the second bodies surround the outer circumference of the first body and are in side-by-side contact with one another.

36. (previously presented) A guide device according to claim 35; wherein the second bodies contact the outer circumference of the first body at circumferentially spaced locations around the first body.

37. (previously presented) A guide device according to claim 36; wherein the means for stretching the first body comprises a pressurized fluid inside the first hollow body.

38. (previously presented) A guide device according to claim 37; wherein the pressurized fluid is a liquid.

39. (previously presented) A guide device according to claim 37; wherein the pressurized fluid is a gas.

40. (currently amended) ~~guide-A~~ A guide device according to claim 28; wherein the second bodies are movable relative to one another.

41. (previously presented) A device according to claim 40; wherein the second bodies are in side-by-side contact with one another and with the outer circumference of the first body.

42. (previously presented) A guide device according to claim 41; wherein the sleeve contains a spiral wire wound in the lengthwise direction of the sleeve.